(b) if so, the bases where this cleaning is proposed to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Cleaning the environment around all Indian Air Force airfields in order to reduce the aircraft accidents on account of bird hits is a continuous process.

Showcasing of helicopters by HAL

2393. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that HAL made history for Indians by displaying a new generation desi-aircraft for the first time on western soil at the Paris Air Show in June this year;

(b) whether the multi-role all weather and terrain Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), Dhruv won the hearts of many customers with its very attractive price tag $ 5.5 million; and

(c) if so, what are the marketing proposals of this new helicopter in the export market?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Preliminary discussions have been held by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) with some potential customers. However, no exports of the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), Dhruv have yet taken place.

Function halls in Secunderabad Cantonment

2394. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many function halls are there in the Secunderabad cantonment area on lease;

(b) how much land each one of them has occupied; and

(c) how much land has been given to other persons on lease for running hotels etc. in the cantonment areas?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There are no function halls in Secunderabad Cantonment, which are situated on land held on lease from the Government.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) No land has been given to other persons on lease for running hotels in the cantonment area.

Order to vacate huts to poor families of Secunderabad Cantonment

2395. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several poor families in Secunderabad cantonment area are serving military personnel by washing/cleaning military horses and providing other household services and assisting in menial jobs for the last 4 or 5 decades; and

(b) if so, the reasons for giving them notices to vacate their huts and exchange land?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Positioning an eye in the sky

2396. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to position "An eye in the sky" tucked into 152 metre long helium based balloon above the country's border; and

(b) if so, how will this be useful to augment border surveillance and track missiles?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Details cannot be divulged in the interest of national security.